Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the second entity includes:

a service activation component offering the extensible set of services.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where the service activation component is configured to configure a router to deliver the service.

3-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ where the first entity corresponds to a business partner system and the second entity corresponds to a service activation component, the service activation component provides the service to a customer associated with the business partner system, the business partner system generates the message requesting service for the customer; and

~~wherein~~ where the first interface module is further configured to:

authenticate the business partner system based, at least in part, on information included in the message.

9.   (currently amended) The system of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the first entity includes a plurality of service activation components; and

~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the system further comprises:

a second entity locator configured to obtain information associated with the service activation components; and

~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the second interface module is further configured to:

contact the second entity locator to identify one of the service activation components from which to request performance of the service.

10.   (currently amended) The system of claim 9, ~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the message includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the service is being requested; and

~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the second entity locator is configured to map the subscriber identifier to the identified one of the service activation components.

11.   (previously presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

an extension manager configured to facilitate at least one of modification of services in the extensible set of services or addition of new services to the extensible set of services offered by the second entity.

12.   (currently amended) The system of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the extensible set of services includes network services associated with communication on the Internet.

13-15. (canceled)

16.   (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

rejecting the message if the first result indicates that the first entity is not permitted to

request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that the first entity is not

permitted to provide the argument, or the third result indicates that the argument is not

permissible for the network service.

17.   (canceled)

18.   (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

configuring a router to deliver the network service to a subscriber.

19.   (canceled)

20.   (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

authenticating the first entity based, at least in part, on information included in the

message.

21.   (currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ where the message

includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the requested service

is being requested; and

~~wherein~~ where the method further comprises identifying the second entity from a

plurality of second entities based, at least in part, on the subscriber identifier included in the

message.

22.   (currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ where the extensible set of

network services includes network services associated with communication on the Internet.

23.   (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a service gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the service

gateway comprising:

a first interface module to receive, from the first entity, a message requesting

performance of a service in an extensible set of services offered by the second entity, the

message including a service name that corresponds to the service and an argument that

includes data ~~useful in performing~~ used to perform the service;

an access control module to:

make a first determination of whether the first entity is permitted to

request performance of the service corresponding to the service name,

make a second determination of whether the argument is permitted to be

provided by the first entity, and

make a third determination of whether the argument is permitted to be

requested for the service corresponding to the service name; and

a second interface module to selectively request performance of the service by the

second entity based, at least in part, on results of the first, second, and third

determinations of the access control module.

24.   (currently amended) The system of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ where the access control

module is further configured to reject the message if the ~~message~~ first determination determines

that the first entity is not permitted to request performance of the service, the second

determination determines that the argument is not permitted to be provided by the first entity, or

the third determination determines that the argument is not permitted to be requested for the

service.

25.   (canceled)

26.   (currently amended) A wholesaler system that provides services to subscribers

associated with a plurality of retailer systems, the wholesaler system comprising:

a service activation component configured to provide the services to the subscribers; and

a service gateway configured to act as a single point of contact between the retailer

systems and the service activation component, the service gateway providing controlled access,

by the retailer systems, to the services provided by the service activation component, the service

gateway permitting each of the retailer systems access to a subset of the services provided by the service activation component via the controlled access,

the service gateway comprising:

a first interface module to receive, from one of the retailer systems, a message requesting performance of one of the services by the service activation component, the message including at least one argument that includes data ~~useful for performing~~ used to perform the one service,

an access control module to:

make a first determination of whether the one retailer system is permitted to request performance of the one service,

make a second determination of whether the at least one argument is permissible for the one retailer system, and

make a third determination of whether the at least one argument is valid for the one service, and

a second interface module to selectively interact with the service activation component based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations of the access control module.

27.   (currently amended) The wholesaler system of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ where the services provided by the service activation component include network services.

28.   (currently amended) The wholesaler system of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ where the

services provided by the service activation component include an extensible set of services.

29.   (currently amended) The wholesaler system of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ where the

service gateway and the service activation component in combination provide a common

interface via which the retailer systems request one or more of the services provided by the

service activation component, the combination exposing subsets of the common interface to each

of the retailer systems by controlling access to the services by the retailer systems.

30.   (canceled)

31.   (currently amended) A method performed ~~in a network that includes~~ by a service

gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first entity, a message requesting performance of a network service of

an extensible set of network services offered by the second entity, the message including a

service name that corresponds to the network service and an argument that includes data ~~useful~~

~~in performing~~ used to perform the network service;

generating a first result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first

entity is permitted to request performance of the network service corresponding to the service

name;

generating a second result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first

entity is permitted to provide the argument;

generating a third result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the

argument is permissible for the network service corresponding to the service name; and

selectively requesting performance of the network service by the second entity based, at

least in part, on the first, second, and third results.

32.   (canceled)

33.   (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the second interface

module is configured to request performance of the service when the first determination

determines that the first entity is permitted to request performance of the service, the second

determination determines that the argument is permitted to be provided by the first entity, and the

third determination determines that the argument is permitted to be requested for the service.

34.   (previously presented) The method of claim 31, where selectively requesting

performance of the network service includes:

requesting performance of the network service when the first result indicates that the first

entity is permitted to request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that

the first entity is permitted to provide the argument, and the third result indicates that the

argument is permissible for the network service.

35.   (currently amended) A ~~system~~ device, comprising:

means for receiving, from a requestor, a message requesting performance of one of a plurality of network services offered by a server, the message including an argument that includes data ~~useful in performing~~ <u>used to perform</u> the one network service;

means for performing a first determination of whether the requestor is permitted to request performance of the one network service;

means for performing a second determination of whether the requestor is permitted to provide the argument;

means for performing a third determination of whether the argument is permissible for the one network service; and

means for requesting performance of the one network service by the server based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations.